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YOUNG AVENGERS®

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CHEUNG
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YOUNG AVENGERS

SIDEKICKS
PART TWO

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When four super-powered teenagers appear dressed as the would-be sidekicks of Captain America, Iron Man, Thor and the Hulk, DAILY BUGLE editor J. Jonah Jameson assigns super-hero consultant Jessica Jones (the former super heroine JEWEL) the task of finding these elusive heroes and getting their story.

Jessica consults with Captain America and Iron Man and learns that not only do the kids have no official ties to their adult counterparts, but that Captain America wants to shut them down before they get hurt.

That night, the so-called Young Avengers--PATRIOT, IRON LAD, ASGARDIAN, and HULKLING--attempt to rescue two hundred wedding guests from a hostage crisis at St. Patrick's Cathedral, inadvertently setting fire to the cathedral and becoming hostages themselves. All appears lost until the bride's teenage sister, KATE, stabs the lead gunmen with one of Patriot's throwing stars, saving the day and mortifying Patriot.

Hoping to avoid police questioning, Patriot, Hulkling, Asgardian, and Iron Lad flee the scene, retreating to Avengers Mansion, where Patriot and Iron Lad argue about the team's readiness for an expected attack by one of the Avengers' most powerful adversaries, KANG THE CONQUEROR. When Patriot storms off, the others are unsure whether or not he'll return.

Asgardian and Hulkling reassure Iron Lad that they'll continue training for Kang's attack, but both have school the next day and need to get home to their parents.

Left alone, Iron Lad enters the ruined Mansion to discover Captain America, Iron Man, and Jessica Jones there waiting for him, demanding to know who he is and where he obtained his futuristic armor.

Iron Lad removes his mask, and reveals that he is, in fact, a teenage time-traveler from the 30th Century:

"They call me Kang..."

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THE YOUNG AVENGERS...?

WHO THE #*&% ARE THE YOUNG AVENGERS?

EXCUSE ME, *NURSE?*

NURSE!

MY FAMILY AND I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR OVER AN *HOUR--!*

ARE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY *HURT*, SIR?

MY DAUGHTER WAS HELD HOSTAGE AT *GUNPOINT--*

IS YOUR DAUGHTER *HURT*, SIR?

I'M *FINE*, NURSE. THANK YOU.

YOU ARE *NOT* FINE. YOU'VE BEEN *STRANGLED, SHOT* AT--AND IF THOSE PSYCHOTIC MINI-AVENGERS HAD HAD THEIR WAY--

YOUNG AVENGERS, DAD...

--YOU'D BE *DEAD* RIGHT NOW.

ARE THEY THE AVENGERS' *KIDS* OR--?

NO ONE KNOWS.

THEY TOOK OFF BEFORE THE POLICE COULD FIND OUT.

LUCKY *THEM*...

"...IF YOU NEED ME, I'LL BE OUTSIDE."

THAT'S THE BISHOP GIRL. THE ONE WHO *SAVED* THEM ALL.

WITH *WHAT?* HER DADDY'S CREDIT CARDS?

APPARENTLY A THROWING STAR.

I GUESS IF YOUR DAD'S DEREK BISHOP, YOU HAVE TO BE PREPARED FOR *ANYTHING.*

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH *MONEY* I'VE RAISED FOR THIS HOSPITAL?

YES, MR. BISHOP, BUT UNLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ARE IN *IMMEDIATE* DANGER--

THE ONLY THING IN *IMMEDIATE* DANGER IS YOUR MEDICAL CAREER...

HEY.

YOU'RE THE GIRL FROM THE CATHEDRAL.

MIND IF I ASK YOU A COUPLE QUESTIONS?

WHO ARE YOU?

I'M CASSIE LANG.

OH, MY GOD...

...YOU'RE ANT-MAN'S *DAUGHTER.*

YEAH.

I MEAN, I *WAS.*

I'M ACTUALLY LOOKING FOR THE YOUNG AVENGERS.

THEY'RE NOT HERE. THEY FLEW OFF WHEN WE LEFT THE CATHEDRAL.

DID YOU SEE WHICH WAY THEY *WENT?*

TOWARD THE *PARK* MAYBE?

SO, TOWARD THE MANSION.

THANKS!

HEY, WAIT!

ARE YOU A... YOUNG AVENGER, *TOO?*

NOPE.

BUT I'M *GONNA* BE.

--BY THE TIME I GET THROUGH WITH YOU, DOCTOR...

HEY, CASSIE--

WAIT UP!

"SO, LET ME GET THIS *STRAIGHT...*"

...IRON LAD IS KANG THE CONQUEROR?
NO! WELL, NOT YET.
IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN.
TRY.
I'M SUPPOSED TO BECOME KANG. IN THE FUTURE.
IS THIS A TIME TRAVEL THING? 'CAUSE I HATE TIME TRAVEL THINGS.
IF IT'S KANG, IT'S A TIME TRAVEL THING.
SEE, THAT'S WHY I HATE KANG.
THAT AND THE CONQUERING.
AND HIS MASK IS WEIRD, TOO.
IT'S ACTUALLY MORE OF A HELMET.
YOU DON'T LOOK MUCH LIKE KANG.
NOT NOW, BUT IF I GIVE MY ARMOR A NEURO-KINETIC ADJUSTMENT...
YEAH, I LIKED YOU BETTER AS IRON LAD.
ME, TOO. THAT'S WHY I LEFT THE THIRTIETH CENTURY.
WELL...

"...THAT'S NOT THE *ONLY* REASON."

POK!

GIVE IT *BACK*, MORGAN!

YOU HEAR THAT, GUYS? HE WANTS HIS *DOLL* BACK.

IT'S NOT A *DOLL*, IT'S A *STIMULOID*.

AND IF YOU DON'T GIVE IT *BACK*--

THEN *WHAT?* YOU'RE GONNA HURT ME?

ACTUALLY? *YES.*

KLIK

AGHHHH!

SSZZZT!

I'M GONNA *KILL* YOU FOR THAT.

HOLY--

I CAN'T *MOVE.*

WHAT DID YOU *DO* TO ME?

NOTHING. I SWEAR.

IT'S TRUE. *HE* DID NOTHING TO YOU.

I DID.

I AM CALLED KANG...

...KANG THE CONQUERER.

FOR REASONS WHICH SHOULD NOW BE *OBVIOUS* TO YOU.

YOU'RE-- AKK--*CHOKING* ME--

THAT'S THE IDEA, YES.

STOP! PLEASE!

WHY? HE'S *BULLIED* YOU--*HUMILIATED* YOU--FOR *YEARS.*

HOW DO YOU *KNOW* THAT?

BECAUSE I'M...

...

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT *TIME TRAVEL?*

"THAT'S WHEN KANG STOPPED TIME TO GIVE ME A GLIMPSE OF HIS *PAST*--

"--AND MY *FUTURE.*"

IN A FEW SHORT YEARS YOU WILL DISCOVER THE PLANS FOR AN ANCIENT *TIME MACHINE.*

A MACHINE WHICH WILL TRANSPORT YOU BACK TO ANCIENT EGYPT...

...WHERE THE POPULATION WILL MISTAKE YOU FOR A GOD AND CROWN YOU *PHARAOH.*

WHEN YOU ATTEMPT TO RETURN *HOME,* HOWEVER, THE MACHINE WILL BREAK DOWN.

YOU'LL BE TRAPPED IN THE *FORTIETH* CENTURY--STRANDED BETWEEN TWO WARRING ALIEN TRIBES.

YOU WILL USE THE TECHNOLOGY AT YOUR DISPOSAL TO *CIVILIZE* THEM.

AND THEY WILL DECLARE YOU *KANG THE CONQUEROR.*

BUT YOU--YOU *SLAUGHTERED* THEM.

IN *WAR* THERE ARE ALWAYS *CASUALTIES.*

BUT NOW TIME ITSELF IS *OURS* TO COMMAND. AND *NOTHING* AND *NO ONE* CAN STOP US.

EXCEPT THE AVENGERS?

THE AVENGERS WERE MERE *SPORT*.

YOU SEEM TO HAVE FOUGHT THEM COUNTLESS TIMES...

...AND EACH TIME THEY'VE *DEFEATED* YOU.

A MAN WHO CAN REWRITE HISTORY *CANNOT* BE DEFEATED.

THAT'S WHY I'VE COME *HERE* TODAY...

WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, THE ANIMAL BEHIND ME SLIT MY THROAT WITH THE POINT OF HIS ANTI-GRAV.

I NEARLY *DIED*--SPENT A *YEAR* OF MY LIFE IN THE HOSPITAL--AND ALMOST *BANKRUPTED* MY PARENTS.

BUT HE'S NOT GOING TO DO THAT TO *YOU*...

...BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO *KILL* HIM.

WHAT?

THE *ARMOR* RESPONDS TO YOUR THOUGHTS.

JUST *IMAGINE* HIS DEATH AND YOU WILL *BE* THE MAN YOU'RE DESTINED TO *BECOME*.

NO!

"KANG WAS *RIGHT*...

"...THE ARMOR *DID* RESPOND TO MY THOUGHTS.

"BUT ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT WAS GOING *BACK* IN TIME, FINDING THE *AVENGERS*, AND MAKING SURE THAT WHEN KANG FOUND *ME*, I'D BE *READY* FOR HIM.

"HOWEVER, WHEN I ARRIVED, I DISCOVERED THE AVENGERS HAD *DISBANDED.*

"I TRIED TO CONTACT AS MANY *FORMER* AVENGERS AS I COULD...

MR. STARK! ONE SECOND! *PLEASE--!*

MR. STARK DOESN'T HAVE TIME FOR AUTOGRAPHS, KID.

"AND WHEN *THAT* FAILED, I USED KANG'S ARMOR TO GAIN ACCESS TO STARK INDUSTRIES...

STARK INDUSTR

"...WHERE I *FINALLY DID* FIND SOMEONE WHO COULD HELP ME."

VISION PROJECT
RETURN TO STARK INDUSTRIES PENDING CLEARANCE AND

THE VISION

YOU'RE *SURE* I'M NOT TOO *HEAVY?*

HULKLING, YOU'RE *FINE.*

AND I THINK I'M FINALLY GETTING THE HANG OF THIS *FLYING* THING.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW HAPPY I AM TO *HEAR* THAT.

DO YOU THINK KANG'LL REALLY SHOW UP?

I *HOPE* NOT.

YOU DON'T THINK WE'RE *READY?*

DO *YOU?*

I DON'T THINK WE CAN AFFORD TO LOSE PATRIOT.

WHAT'S HE GONNA DO? GO SOLO? HE'S NOT READY FOR *THAT.*

I MEAN, THE GUY'S STUBBORN, BUT HE'S NOT--

--AN IDIOT.

WHERE WE GOING, GUYS??!

THAT *DEPENDS*, MAN!

IF YOU'VE BEEN GOOD...

...YOU'RE GOING TO HEAVEN!!!

BLAM!

PATRIOT!

HOW YOU DOIN', SUPER-SOLDIER? STILL *BULLET-PROOF?*

THEY'RE GETTING AWAY.

DON'T WORRY...

"...ASGARDIAN'S ON TOP OF IT."

ZZZZZZZT!

CRACK! CRACK! CRACK! CRA

YOU GUYS ARE GONNA WANT TO *DROP* THE GUNS AND GET *OUT* OF THE CAR.

TRUST ME ON THIS ONE.

THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH KIDS TODAY. THEY DON'T LISTEN.

WHAT IF I SHOT *YOU*, MAN? WHERE DO YOU THINK *YOU'D* END UP?

YEAH, THESE GUYS AREN'T AS *SCARY* WITHOUT THEIR *GUNS*--

HULKLING, BEHIND YOU!

HULKLING!

AAAGH!

YOU OKAY?

YEAH. ALMOST *HEALED*...

THE INCREDIBLE HULKLING.

THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT DOESN'T *HURT*.

TELL ME ABOUT IT. I JUST GOT SHOT IN THE CHEST.

WHO *ARE* THESE GUYS?

DEALERS. I CAUGHT 'EM SELLING *MGH* IN THE PARK.

AT THE RISK OF SOUNDING DANGEROUSLY *UNHIP*, WHAT'S *MGH*?

MUTANT GROWTH HORMONE. IT GIVES *NORMAL* PEOPLE *POWERS* FOR A WHILE.

WHAT DO WE *DO* WITH IT?

TAKE IT TO THE COPS?

AND GET ARRESTED FOR WRECKING ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL? I DON'T THINK SO.

SO, WHAT DO WE DO WITH THE *DEALERS?*

LEAVE 'EM *HERE*, I GUESS.

WITH A NOTE SAYING, "FROM YOUR FRIENDLY, NEIGHBORHOOD YOUNG AVENGERS"?

BECAUSE *THAT'LL* STAND UP IN COURT.

YOU GOT A *BETTER* IDEA?

GEE, LET ME CHECK MY SUPER HERO MANUAL.

OH, WAIT, IT'S IN MY OTHER *TIGHTS.*

IRON LAD WAS *RIGHT*. WE'RE NOT *READY* FOR THIS.

IRON LAD DOESN'T KNOW ANY MORE ABOUT THIS THAN *WE* DO.

HE KNOWS BETTER THAN TO GO OFF BY HIMSELF AND GET *SHOT.*

WHAT IF WE HADN'T *BEEN* HERE, PATRIOT?

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO *SAY?* "THANKS"?

YOU'RE *WELCOME.*

WE WANT YOU TO SAY YOU'RE STILL ON THE TEAM. BECAUSE IF KANG *DOES* ATTACK...

"...WE'LL NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET."

THE MANSION LOOKS DESERTED.

YEAH, BUT IF THESE KIDS ARE SMART ENOUGH TO RESCUE A CATHEDRAL FULL OF HOSTAGES--

THEY'RE *NOT*, BY THE WAY.

--THEY'RE PROBABLY SMART ENOUGH *NOT* TO LET US KNOW THEY'RE *HERE*.

HOW DO WE GET *IN?* HOP THE GATE?

I KNOW THE SECURITY CODES.

YOU *DO?*

I USED TO *LIVE* HERE.

YOU USED TO *LIVE* IN AVENGERS MANSION?

ONE WEEKEND A MONTH. BEFORE MY MOM SUED FOR SOLE CUSTODY. SHE WAS *NOT* AN AVENGERS FAN.

THIS IS *WEIRD*. THE KEYPAD'S NOT RESPONDING.

IN *THAT* CASE...

I'LL TRY THE EMERGENCY CODES, BUT IF *THOSE* DON'T WORK, I HAVE NO IDEA HOW WE'RE GONNA GET--

--IN.

WANT ME TO GIVE YOU A *BOOST?*

OH, MY GOD...
WHAT?
THIS IS IT.
THIS IS WHERE MY DAD DIED.
THEY TOLD ME AND MY MOM THAT JACK OF HEARTS HAD COME BACK--
--EVERYONE THOUGHT HE WAS *DEAD*--
--SO, MY DAD RAN OUT TO SEE IF HE WAS *OKAY*--
--AND JACK OF HEARTS--HE-- *EXPLODED.*
THEY SAID DAD DIED INSTANTLY. THAT HE DIDN'T FEEL ANY PAIN, BUT I--
=SNIFF=
WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE?
NO. I WANT TO AT LEAST GO IN AND GET MY DAD'S STUFF.
WHAT STUFF?
HIS SPARE UNIFORMS, HIS HELMET. THEY BELONG TO *ME* NOW.
I'M GONNA BE THE NEW *ANT-MAN.*
C'MON, I'LL GIVE YOU THE TOUR--
SSSZZZT!

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU KIDS GOT *IN* HERE, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO *LEAVE.*

"KIDS"?

THIS IS *PRIVATE PROPERTY.*

AND *THIS* IS ANT-MAN'S DAUGHTER.

SO *NOW* WHO'S TRESPASSING?

YOU'RE *CASSIE LANG?*

YEAH.

AND I'M THE GIRL WHO SAVED YOUR LIFE, REMEMBER?

YOU DID *NOT.* YOU CREATED A *DIVERSION.*

I HAD TO DO *SOMETHING.* THANKS TO *YOU,* I ALMOST *DIED.*

WE WERE *TRYING* TO *HELP--*

YOU GUYS ARE THE ONES WHO NEED *HELP.*

WHICH IS WHY ANT-GIRL AND I WANT TO JOIN THE YOUNG AVENGERS.

ANT-GIRL?

"THE YOUNG AVENGERS" IS *NOT* OUR OFFICIAL NAME, BY THE WAY.

SO, DO YOU GUYS HAVE *POWERS?*

NO...

NOT POWERS *PER SE,* BUT--

LOOK, IF I CAN JUST GET MY DAD'S *GEAR--*

HOW *OLD* ARE YOU?

FIFTEEN.

NO, SERIOUSLY, HOW OLD ARE YOU?

SERIOUSLY, I'M FIFTEEN.

IN JUNE.

LOOK, I'M JUST GONNA GET MY DAD'S STUFF--

NO, YOU'RE *NOT.*

OKAY, YOU'RE GONNA WANT TO TAKE YOUR HAND OFF ME IF YOU WANT TO KEEP IT.

I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T HAVE *POWERS.*

I DON'T...

...BUT I'VE BEEN *KIDNAPPED* SO MANY TIMES, MY MOM FINALLY LET ME TAKE *SELF-DEFENSE* CLASSES.

THAT WAS *AWESOME.*

SORRY, PATRIOT.

TIME FOR YOU TO GO *HOME*, LITTLE GIRL.

I'M NOT GOING *ANYWHERE.*

MY FATHER WAS AN *AVENGER.* THIS WAS HIS *HOME.* AND ONE WEEKEND A MONTH, IT WAS *MINE*, TOO.

NOW HE'S *DEAD.*

AND *ALL* I HAVE *LEFT* OF HIM IS INSIDE THE MANSION.

SO, I DON'T CARE *WHO* YOU ARE--OR WHAT *POWERS* YOU HAVE...

...I'M NOT LEAVING WITHOUT IT!

CASSIE...

...I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T HAVE *POWERS.*

I DON'T!

THAT'S NOT WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE FROM *HERE*.

EMPIRE
ZONE
EMPIRE
ZONE
KL!Z8